Cost Escalation in the Central Projects

1347. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Study undertaken by the Programme Implementation Department recently revealed that there are number of Central Project whose Cost-escalation has gone to Rs. 60,000 crores ;

(b) if so, how many projects are there whose cost-escalation has recorded a sharp rise ;

(c) whether any remedial measures were suggested in the Study-report ; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) As on 30-9-93, the cost of 356 projects being monitored by the Department of Programme implementation has risen from the approval cost of Rs. 98,636 crores to about 1,28,702 crores, i.e., cost overrun of about Rs. 30,066crores.

(b) 163 out of 356 projects have reported cost escalation over their approved costs.

(c) and (d) The Government proposed to priorities the Projects for their early completion and finance the gap due to increase in cost through increased budgetary support, internal resources and extra-budgetary resources.

Twelve Point Programme to Eradicate Poverty in the Country

1348. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched a 12 Point Action Plan for poverty alleviation in the memory of beloved leader Indiraji, in the various state of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The on-going scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yozana (JRY) provide self employment and wage employment to the rural poor throughout the country. Another new scheme known as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on 2nd October, 1993, in 1752 Revamped Public Distribution System blocks of the country. The objective of the new scheme is to provide 100 days of assured casual, manual labour during lean agricultural season at statutory minimum wages in projects like watershed development, agriculture wells, acquaculture, sericulture etc. This schemes is expected to benefit mainly the agricultural labourers in the remote and poorest area of the country. In view of the above, there is no proposal to start any fresh or new scheme for poverty alleviation in the country.

Expenditure on Rural Development in Tamil Nadu

1349. SHRI AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of rural population in the country as per latest Census, state-wise ;

(b) what is the percentage of national income being spent on rural development schemes in the country, state-wise ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the expenditure on rural development in Tamil Nadu ?